



Monthly Report August 2010

The following is a summary of activity of the Prevention Director and the BAY Team members in the month of August, 2010.

Community:

The BAY Team has partnered with the Elks, the Barrington Police and the YMCA to offer three outdoor summer movies for teens and families. We are certainly grateful for the support of many, but, in particular, I would like to thank Peter D'Angelis and John Lazzaro for ensuring that we had an abundance of food and drinks for all who attended. Their commitment to the youth of this community is to be commended.



This community partnership provided three substance free events for local youth. On the evening of the final movie, a fifteen year old youth was vomiting in a local shop. He and two friends admitted to smoking marijuana behind a school before getting sick. Just some of the local challenges we face as a community.

Marijuana Subcommittee

The BAY Team subcommittee on Marijuana continues to educate community members about the need to prevent youth use of marijuana in the community. This year's proposed state legislation to decriminalize or legalize marijuana did not pass. The BAY Team was one of the few voices advocating against the passage of these laws.

We are working on a "Then and Now" campaign to demonstrate that marijuana use is more dangerous now than it was back in the 60's and 70's. The group will continue to educate parents and legislators about the research based evidence on the dangers of this substance and its impact on the brain of a developing adolescent.

Prevention Media:

We are almost done filming and producing prevention Public Service Announcements as part of this year's Social Norms media campaign. We are mentoring a Barrington High School senior and working with a local graphics firm to help create a slick and fun prevention campaign which will highlight the fact that most Barrington High School students do NOT drink. The audience for this information is middle school youth who often have a skewed perception of the number of student who actually drink alcohol. More exciting details as we roll out the campaign.... On facebook, twitter, the Morning Show and in the bathroom stalls!

Family Dinner Day

Once again, a subcommittee of the BAY Team will meet during the summer to plan awareness activities to celebrate national Family Dinner Day. This year the event will be on Monday, September 27th. We plan to work with the faith community, businesses, schools and community groups to raise awareness about this important and simple prevention tool. The more families eat dinner together, the less likely their kids will use alcohol or other drugs.

We will again distribute the fortune cookies with a message. We will have a table at Shaw's to promote the day and give customers a reusable shopping bag with a BAY Team prevention message.



Schools:

We partnered with the Athletic Director, George Finn, and the Booster Club to produce a Fall Sports calendar with prevention messages on it for all parents of athletes. We will also be surveying parents at the Open House in September as well as planning another Blue Out event for the October Homecoming game.

We worked with Denise Johnson, the head of the health department, to review the health prevention curricula. The BAY Team purchased two additional lessons on Marijuana and Prescription Drug Misuse as part of the Class Action curriculum.

Law Enforcement:

Two Barrington Police Officers were able to attend this year's Enforcement of Underage Drinking Laws National Leadership Conference. The BAY Team looks forward to learning more about the innovative programs being implemented across the country. Many of the proactive strategies used in our community have come from presentations at this national conference.

Drug Free Community Grant:

The BAY Team Director and Project Manager have been meeting individually with BAY Team members to review the past year and plan for upcoming projects. The support of the DFC grant has enabled us to strengthen the capacity and, thus, the achievements of the coalition.

BAY Team Subcommittees:

- a. **Parenting for Prevention** – a committee comprised of parents, including a PTO liaison to each school, which plans monthly parenting tips, hosts educational workshops, runs cottage prevention meetings, staffs informational booths at school and community events, and creates the annual Family Dinner Day campaign.

- b. **Marijuana** – a committee comprised of interested parties including treatment providers, youth advisors, and parents, which is in the process of developing a public service campaign to address the growing threat of youth marijuana use and advising on curriculum for the schools. This committee is also active at the state level educating politicians on the topic of marijuana decriminalization and legalization.
- c. **Prescription Drug Abuse** – a committee comprised of interested parties including treatment providers and parents which has provided lock boxes to the community and is working to bring a prescription drug take back event to Barrington.
- d. **Policy** – a committee comprised of parents, law enforcement officials, treatment providers and others, which is currently working to mandate education to youth offenders and their families through a local ordinance. This committee is also focused on the lack of state policy for a minors-in- possession law, expansion of the current social host legislation, and considering the impact of an increase in liquor store outlet density.
- e. **Social Norms** – a youth-driven committee that also includes adults with marketing expertise, which is launching a campaign, based on 2009 youth survey data to change the perception that all youth in Barrington use alcohol. This is a positive campaign to highlight all of the good choices being made by Barrington youth.
- f. **Sustainability** – a committee comprised of BAY Team members with marketing and fundraising expertise, which is creating a membership brochure and developing a sustainability plan.
- g. **BAYouth** – youth who belong to the local Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) at BHS, CHOICES at BMS as well as representatives from the private and parochial schools who create substance-free activities for Barrington youths throughout the year. This year's activities will include Red Ribbon Week in October, the Barrington Blue Out at BHS homecoming, Dodgeball tournaments, MADD's statewide Mocktail competition and Candlelight vigil event, and Kick Butts Day.
- h. **Print Media** – a committee comprised of parents, school representatives, and marketing experts which develops yearly publications such as the Together We're Stronger newspaper insert done in conjunction with the substance abuse coalitions in Warren and Bristol.

